

REMARKS

As of the filing of this amendment, claims 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 22 are identical to claims 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 22 as issued. Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 19, and 20 have been amended, and new claims 23-44 have been added. After the foregoing amendments, claims 1-44 are pending in this reissue application.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 2, 3, and 8, and new claims 23, 24, 25, and 30 can be found in the paragraph starting on column 6, line 46. Further support for new claim 23 can be found in the paragraph starting on column 7, line 45. Support for the amendments to claims 7 and 12 and new claims 29 and 34 can be found in the paragraph starting on column 8, line 58. Support for the amendment to claim 19 and new claim 41 can be found in the paragraph starting on column 4, line 42. Support for the amendment to claim 20 and new claim 42 can be found in the paragraph starting on column 4, line 60. New claims 24-44 are similar to originally issued claims 2-22, so that they find support in the original disclosure.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims and newly submitted claims contain no new matter and constitute a clear basis for reissue and that all pending claims are patentable over the art of record. Applicant verily believes the original patent, namely, U.S. Patent No. 6,400,663 ('663 Patent), is wholly or partly inoperative or invalid by reason of the patentees claiming less than they had a right to claim in the patent. This reissue application is being filed within two years of the issuance of the '663 Patent.


In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.178 and MPEP 1416, Applicant submits herewith the original United States Patent No. 6,275,006 (issued August 14, 2001) to surrender United States Patent No. 6,275,006.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that originally issued claims 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 22, amended claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 19, and 20, and newly submitted claims 23-44 properly set forth that which Applicant regards as its invention. Applicant further submits that the above reason constitutes an adequate and sufficient basis for reissue of the original '663 Patent. Favorable consideration of this Reissue Application is therefore earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail or deem that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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